ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A technique to load balance network packet traffic using content switching is provided. Packets are routed to a particular server or otherwise processed based on the XML-related content identified in a header or body of the packet. Rules can be defined that specify an action to undertake with regards to the packet if certain pieces of XML-related content are identified therein. These actions can include forwarding of the packet to a particular server or servers that best process the transaction associated with the packet.

/350078.412-AP/437218

32